

Application No. 09/842,370
Filed: April 25, 2001
TC Art Unit: 2162
Confirmation No.: 6576

REMARKS

The foregoing Amendment is filed in response to the official action dated August 11, 2005. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The status of the claims is as follows:

Claims 1-33 are currently pending.

Claims 1-3, 5, 8, 11, 15-22, 24, 27, and 30 stand rejected.

Claims 4, 6-7, 9-10, 12-14, 23, 25-26, 28-29, and 31-33 are objected to.

Claims 4-9, 11-15, 23-28, and 30-33 have been amended.

Claims 1-3 and 16-22 have been canceled without prejudice.

As indicated above, the Examiner has objected to claims 4, 6-7, 9-10, 12-14, 23, 25-26, 28-29, and 31-33 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Applicants have rewritten claims 4, 6-7, 9, 12-14, 23, 25-26, 28, and 31-33 in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Applicants have also amended each of the claims 5, 8, 11, 15, 24, 27, and 30 to depend from an allowable base claim. In addition, the Applicants have canceled claims 1-3 and 16-22 without prejudice. Each of the remaining claims 10 and

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29 depends from an allowable base claim. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 4-15 and 23-33 should be allowed.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned Attorney to discuss any matter that would expedite allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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